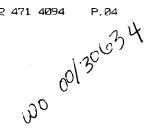
Application No. 09/856,277 Paper dated April 2, 2004 Further response to Office Action of August 19, 2003 Attorney Docket No. 702-010802



AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

1-12. (Cancelled)

A method for the treatment of skeletal (Currently Amended) muscle subjected to immobilization which results in muscle disuse syndrome in an animal or human for which such treatment is indicated, comprising administering two or more doses daily of a creatine compound in unit dosage form during an the immobilization period and/or during a subsequent rehabilitation period, and further wherein the creatine compound dosage amount decreases substantially to one dose daily after the end of the immobilization period and during the rehabilitation period for up to about ten weeks



- The method according to claim 13, (Previously Presented): wherein said creatine compound is creatine.
- The method according to claim 13, (Previously Presented): wherein said creatine compound is a creatine analogue.
- The method according to claim 13, (Previously Presented): wherein the animal or human to be treated need not in addition perform a training programme to increase muscle volume and muscle functional capacity.
- The method according to claim 13, 17 (Previously Presented): wherein the creatine compound, in unit dosage form, is administered in an amount that leads to a total daily supplementation of about 5 to 20 g creatine.

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18. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 13, wherein said muscle disuse syndrome is the result of reduced physical activity due to immobilization, disease, aging or handicap.

19. and 20. (Cancelled)

(Previously Presented) The method according to claim 17, wherein the total treatment period lasts up to between about two to twelve weeks.

treatment of muscle disuse syndrome in an animal or human for which such prevention or treatment is indicated, comprising administering a creatine compound in unit dosage form during an immobilization period and a subsequent rehabilitation period, and further comprising administering about 5 g creatine compound, in unit dosage form, more than once daily during the immobilization period and subsequently administering about 5 g creatine compound, in unit dosage form, more than entered the immobilization period and subsequently administering about 5 g creatine compound, in unit dosage form, only once daily during at least a portion of the rehabilitation period, wherein the rehabilitation period lasts no longer than 10 weeks.